

***SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
TIPPECANOE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 12, 2002***

The Tippecanoe County Commissioners and Tippecanoe County Council met in a special joint meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2002 at Noon in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Commissioners present were: President John L. Knochel and Vice President KD Benson. Council members present were: Vice President Connie Basham, Ronald L. Fruitt, Jeffrey A. Kemper, Jeffrey Kessler, and Kathy Vernon; Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, County Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr. (Council President David S. Byers and Councilmember Margaret K. Bell were absent.)

Greg Guerrettaz, President of Financial Solutions and Tippecanoe County's Financial Consultant, was also present.

President Knochel called the County Commissioners' meeting to order.

Vice President Basham called the County Council's meeting to order.

SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENTAL CAPITAL & OPERATING NEEDS: 2003-2013

Mr. Guerrettaz reviewed the summary of Capital and Operating Needs for the next ten (10) years that were submitted by various County departments prior to today's meeting. Mr. Guerrettaz said a Grant Impact Statement is important in a situation when a local match is required to receive grant money. He asked Commissioner Knochel to assign a dollar value to the requests as he has done in the past.

REVENUE COMMITTEE REPORT: Councilmember Kessler

Councilmember Kessler submitted a review of Committee actions:

- Meetings held on March 7, April 2, May 14, and October 15. Next meeting scheduled for November 19 with Charles Malinowski, Senior Manager with Maximus.
- Review of fees charged by departments as submitted following a second request by the Auditor.
- Pooling investments to increase the rate of return is being discussed.
- Franchise Fee information is being gathered.
- Seek legislation for an Institutional Care tax rate outside the Levy limit.

Councilmember Kessler expressed his disappointment that no response was received from some department heads. Councilmember Vernon asked for a list of those department heads so their Council reps can contact them.

Mr. Guerrettaz advised getting into the queue of the Indiana Bond Assessment Program that will allow the County to borrow up to 80% of the Property Tax draw in total if revenue is late due to the Reassessment delay. He estimated an interest rate of 1.2% which could be lower than our earnings. Getting into the queue does not obligate us to borrow funds. He noted that the loan must be paid back by December 31st of the year borrowed.

Mr. Guerrettaz suggested inviting Bob McKee, current County Assessor, and Nancy Moore, County Assessor elect, to the next meeting at Noon on Tuesday, December 10, 2002 to learn more about the Reassessment picture.

HEA 1001

Referring to an article by Thomas (Buddy) Downs and Karen Arland, Ice Miller, one of the most important provisions of HEA 1001 is that it provides a mechanism to replace the loss of TIF revenues lost as a result of the 60% reduction in school general fund levy. Mr. Guerrettaz said we need to get a handle on the impact to the County and City of Lafayette for the SIA TIF District to be proactive. He thinks we may have to react within the next couple of weeks.

➔ Commissioner Ruth E. Shedd entered the meeting.

Councilmember Kessler recommended authorizing Mr. Guerrettaz to contact the City of Lafayette and their financial representative to determine their needs to make sure we do nothing detrimental to them.

3 or 5 YEAR OPERATING PLAN

Mr. Guerrettaz said he thinks it would be helpful to develop a three (3) to five (5) year Operating Plan. Anticipating budget problems for 2004, he suggested that he and Auditor Plantenga use computations from the first quarter of 2003 to look ahead at operating costs in preparation for the 2004 Budget. He thinks it is important to look ahead to create accurate actual expenses (i.e. salary plus benefits to hire a new employee) and relate that to the 16 line statement. Councilmember Kessler thought a three year Operating Plan would be better than five years. Mr. Guerrettaz agreed.

Councilmember Vernon suggested looking at services the County is providing and prioritize them for the 2004 Budget. She thinks we should ask what we have to provide and if we are providing too much.

EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

An educational seminar on Reassessment and the impact on the County Budget for department heads and elected officials will be held at the County Extension Building from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., Tuesday, December 17, 2002.

ADJOURNMENT: Commissioners

Commissioner Shedd moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Benson; motion carried.

RECESSED: Council

The County Council recessed until 2:00 P.M.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE COUNTY OF TIPPECANOE**

John L. Knochel, President

KD Benson, Vice President

Ruth E. Shedd, Member

ATTEST:

Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor